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Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET 731

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00

NSC-12 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 FBI-01 RSR-01

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R 332300Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4233
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

SECRET GUATEMALA 3363

NOFORN

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY

REF: GUATEMALA 3337

MANAGUA FOR LEGATT

1. SUMMARY: TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS THAT CHIEF OF DETECTIVES
OF NATIONAL POLICE, COL. JOSE VICENTE MORALES WAS REPLACED
BY JOSE ALBERTO BARRIOS RAMIREZ ON EVENING 2 AUGUST. BOTH MEN
HAVE REPUTATIONS AS COMPETENT, EXPERIENCED POLICE OFFICIALS.

2. CONFIRMING CHIEF OF DETECTIVES JOSE MORALES' ASSERTIONS TO
EMBASSY OFFICERS LAST WEEK THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE LEAVING HIS
POST SOON (REFTEL), TODAY'S PRESS ANNOUNCES THAT HE WAS REPLACED
YESTERDAY BY JOSE ALBERTO BARRIOS RAMIREZ.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR
REVIEWED BY Cay DATE 7 OCT 1971
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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4. NEW DETECTIVE CHIEF BARRIOS, WHO HAS LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH U. S., HAS REPUTATION AS COMPETENT AND EXPERIENCED POLICE OFFICIAL. HE WAS BORN IN GUATEMALA CITY OCTOBER 28, 1931, EDUCATED IN BROOKLYN, MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL (1947-1951), EMPLOYED BY UNITED FRUIT COMPANY IN GUATEMALA (1951-1957), AND JOINED JUDICIAL POLICE (PREDECESSOR TO CORPS OF DETECTIVES) AT UNDETERMINED DATE. HE WAS PROMOTED FROM 2ND JUDICIAL CHIEF TO CHIEF IN JULY 1965. HE WAS DISMISSED FROM POSITION IN MID-1966, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE NEWLY ELECTED REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PR) REGIME IRRITATED OVER HIS OFFICIAL REPORT THAT DEATH OF PR LEADER MARIO MENDEZ MONTENEGRO WAS SUICIDE AND NOT MURDER WHICH WAS PR'S OFFICIAL POSITION. (S)

[REDACTED]

5. COMMENT: BOTH MORALES AND HIS SUCCESSOR BARRIOS HAVE REPUTATION AS TOP POLICE OFFICIALS. (S)
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